

I was disheartened to learn that Tennessee has the highest childhood obesity rate in the country. While, nationally, 31 percent of kids are obese or overweight—a number that is already too high—in Tennessee, the rate is 38 percent.

Childhood obesity has lifelong consequences. It leaves our kids at a higher rate for cardiovascular disease, including heart disease and stroke, diabetes, and even certain types of cancer.

Research has shown that early childhood is a critical time for the development of lifelong dietary and physical activities.

That is why we are introducing the Reducing Obesity in Youth Act.

If enacted, this bill would create a competitive grant program to incentivize the development of healthier early care and education environments to improve healthy eating and physical activity for children under five.

It's time that we act. I urge my colleagues to help pass this bill.

HONORING HOWARD "REED" HERITAGE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2018

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Howard "Reed" Heritage, who passed away on Saturday, July 21, 2018.

Reed was born and raised in the town of Richwood, New Jersey. Reed was part of the first class at nearby Clearview High School and later graduated from Delaware Valley College. In the early part of the 1970s, Reed moved to California, where he would go to work on behalf of the California Farm Bureau. As an advocate for one of California's largest industries, Reed represented farmers and sought solutions to the many challenges that impacted their businesses.

When he was not working on behalf of California farmers, Reed loved to cheer on his favorite sports teams—including the San Francisco 49ers and the San Francisco Giants. Reed was also a big fan of the Olympic Games and traveled to watch the games in person in Athens, Beijing, Atlanta, Montreal, Los Angeles, and Sydney. Traveling to new cities throughout Europe and Asia was one of Reed's favorite past times.

I want to extend my heartfelt condolences to Reed's family and friends, who I know will deeply miss him.

CELEBRATING MRS. GRACIE G. SIMPSON

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2018

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a beloved role model and gracious woman of faith, Mrs. Gracie G. Simpson who will be celebrating her 90th birthday on Saturday, September 1, 2018. On this day, there will be a celebration at the Claystone Park Pavilion at Lake Tobesofkee in Macon, Georgia.

Gracie Mae Peck was born on August 29, 1928 in Macon, Georgia to the late Willie B. Peck and the late Claire Mae Fulton. She was the second child, with one older sister, one younger sister, and two younger brothers, all of whom are now deceased.

Back in the days when she was young, many children did not have the opportunity to complete school and had to begin working at a young age. For 43 years of her life, Mrs. Simpson worked at Tom's Foods, Inc., known to many as "the candy company." However, she was able to return to school to take computer classes before retiring.

Mrs. Simpson was married to J.Z. Simpson, Sr. for 54 years until his death in October of 2008. She has three sons, Donald Gibson, Jr., Zebbie Simpson, and Michael Simpson, and one daughter, Jan Simpson Walker.

She has eight grandchildren: Donald, Eunice, Christen, Jerome, Marcus, Marvin, Keisha, and Kelicia. She also has six great-grandchildren: Grace, Hannah, Abigail, Katelynn, DJ, and Christian.

Mrs. Simpson has achieved numerous successes in her life, but none of this would have been possible without the love and support of her adoring family. Voted "Reigning Queen" at Pearl Stephens Village Senior Apartments, she enjoys fishing and going on walks. She loves spending time with her family and is a great cook. She makes a mean sweet potato pie and a delicious peach cobbler. She is full of life and spunk and her family knows very well that "if you don't want to hear the truth, don't ask her a question."

Most important to Mrs. Simpson is her sturdy and enduring relationship with the Lord. She has been a member of Greater Little Rock Baptist Church for over 60 years. She has served on the Mother Board Association, Choir, Deaconesses, Food Bank, Women of Flow Ministry, and Kitchen Ministry.

The race of life isn't given to the swift or to the strong, but to those who endure until the end. Mrs. Simpson has run the race of life with grace and dignity and God has blessed her over her lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife Vivian and me, along with the more than 730,000 constituents of the Second Congressional District of Georgia, in recognizing Mrs. Gracie G. Simpson for her 90 fruitful and productive years of life. We extend our best wishes to her as she, her family, and friends celebrate her birthday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2018

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to make clear that, had I been able to vote, I would have voted Yea on roll call votes 181, 182, and 183 on May 15, 2018.

LAURA EFURD

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2018

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, as Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), I rise today to honor the life of Laura Efurd, a cherished staffer and public servant who passed away earlier this month at the age of 54 after a hard-fought battle with ampullary cancer.

Laura was born on the Big Island of Hawaii, and raised both in Kona and Mililani, Hawaii. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Communications and Political Science from Ouachita Baptist University and began her career in Washington, D.C. as a Legislative Assistant to former Congressman Tommy F. Robinson of Arkansas.

After earning her Master's Degree in International Communications from American University, she joined the staff of the late Congresswoman Patsy Mink of Hawaii as her Legislative Director in 1990.

During her time on Capitol Hill, Laura played an instrumental role in elevating the voices of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. She was there at the founding of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus in 1994 and served as the Caucus' Principal Staff Member from 1995 to 1999 under the chairmanship of Congresswoman Patsy Mink.

The Caucus began with five Asian American and Pacific Islander Members of the House and two Senators. They hailed from two states and the Pacific Island territories of American Samoa and Guam. Today, CAPAC includes a historic high of 15 Asian American and Pacific Islander House Members and three Senators who represent ten states and territories. There is no doubt that Laura's work helped to build the foundation to give us the voice that we have today. In her quiet way, she helped our Caucus to become twice as loud.

Laura was also one of the founding Members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Staff Association and was one of the driving forces behind the creation of an internship program for young Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to pursue careers in public service.

She left Capitol Hill in 1999, when she was appointed by President William Clinton, first to the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs at the U.S. Department of Labor, and then as Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of the White House's Office of Public Liaison.

During her time in the Clinton administration, Laura was instrumental in the creation of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, which created a coordinated voice within the White House and federal agencies to address issues of critical concern to our American communities.

Outside government service, she joined the executive leadership of ZeroDivide—an organization based in California dedicated to increasing economic and educational opportunities, expanding civic engagement and access to technology, and improving health care for low-income and underserved communities.

She later returned to the U.S. Congress and most recently served as a trusted aide to Senator MAZIE K. HIRONO of Hawaii, where she